Patient Group Direction (PGD)

Student nurses **cannot** administer medication that is prescribed via a Patient Group Direction (PGD). A Patient Group Direction (PGD) is defined by the National Prescribing Centre (2004) as 'a written instruction for the sale, supply and or administration of named medicines in an identified clinical situation. It applies to **groups** of patients who may not be individually identified' (p20). A PGD enables a registered health care professional, including a nurse, midwife, pharmacist or physiotherapist, to administer a prescription only medicine (POM's) to a patient without an individual prescription (RCN 2004).

The NMC Standards for Medicines Management (2007) state that 'the administration of drugs via PGD's may not be delegated and students cannot supply or administer under a PGD. Students would however be expected to understand the principles and be involved in the process' (NMC 2007).

Most drugs can be prescribed via a PGD therefore it is important that you ensure that you only administer medication that is prescribed to an **individual patient**. An example of a medicine that is regularly administered via a PGD is Instillagel for catheterisation. If you are undertaking a catheterisation, you will need to ask a prescriber e.g. a doctor or a nurse prescriber, to prescribe the Instillagel on the individual prescription chart, so that you can administer the Instillagel.

If you have any questions about PGD's please contact Caroline MacDonald, Senior Lecturer, on 262976 or c.macdonald@rgu.ac.uk. You can also discuss it with your mentor.

References

National Prescribing Centre (2004). Patient Groups Directions - A practical guide and framework of competencies for all professionals using patient group directions. Accessed online 19th June 2007 http://www.npc.co.uk/publications/pgd/pgd.pdf

RCN (2004). Patient Group Directions – Guidance and information for nurses. RCN: London.

NMC (2007). Standards for Medicines Management. NMC: London.